

# **MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY**

## **OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2021**

**The regular meeting of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority convened at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference only at 470-869-2200/meeting ID 428-245-6027 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**The following were in attendance at this meeting:**

<b>Authority Members</b>	<b>MMG Staff</b>
<b>Les Hall</b>	<b>Randy Croxton</b>
<b>Clem Kaikis</b>	<b>Mark Harrison</b>
<b>Gina Ramsey</b>	<b>Tim Smoot</b>
<b>Mara Sierocinski</b>	<b>Mike Howard</b>
<b>Laura Pasternak</b>	<b>Stanley Tucker</b>
<b>Kenny Oreagba</b>	<b>Anthony Williams</b>
<b>Chuck Martin</b>	<b>Robin Harris</b>
<b>Sharon Pinder</b>	

**Attorney General's Office**  
**Barbara Kountz, Deputy Counsel**

## **AGENDA**

### **MINUTES**

**March 11, 2021**

### **EXTENSIONS**

**Adventures By Dawn, LLC d/b/a Adventure Tours**

**Adventures By Dawn, LLC d/b/a Adventure Tours (COVID 19)**

**Gravastine, LLC**

### **NEW REQUEST**

**Van Eron's Pro Soccer, LLC**

### **MODIFICATIONS**

**MidPoint Technology Group, LLC**

**Nepenthe Homebrew, LLC**

The closed session of March 11, 2021, meeting was summarized. The Authority Board meeting was attended by Les Hall, Clem Kaikis, Gina Ramsey, and Mara Sierocinski. The meeting was closed to comply with requirements of the Maryland Public Information Act so that there would not be disclosure of confidential, commercial, and financial information associated with the applicants. The meeting was closed to discuss the new request of The Allocated Formula Group, Inc. dba AFG Networks. The request was approved.

The Allocated Formula Group, Inc. dba AFG Networks - \$50,000 EPIP line of credit

### **MINUTES**

March 11, 2021

**Action Taken:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

**NOTE: Mara Sierocinski and Sharon Pinder were not present.**

### **EXTENSION**

**Presenter:** Randy Croxton

**Applicant:** Adventures by Dawn, LLC

**Loan Amount:** 1. \$400,000 EPIP Term Loan  
2. \$200,000 (COVID-19)Term Loan

**Original Approval Date:** 1. November 12, 2020  
2. January 28, 2021

**Comments:** An extension of the approval dates to May 13, 2021 was requested.

**Discussion:** There was limited discussion regarding if there were any obstacles impeding the loan from closing.

**Action Taken:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Authority unanimously approved the request as presented.

**NOTE: Mara Sierocinski and Sharon Pinder were not present.**

**REPORT**


**Presenter:** Les Hall

**Comments:** Mr. Hall reminded the Board members of the April 30, 2021 deadline to submit their Financial Disclosure Statements (Form 2) for the period ending December 31, 2020.

**Action Taken:** No action was required by MMG.

The Open Meeting then closed at 1:15 p.m. upon motion made and seconded, and approved by all voting members, the meeting was closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b) (13), "to comply with a specific... statutory... requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter", that is, the Maryland Public Information Act prohibits disclosure of trade secrets, confidential commercial and confidential financial information. Chairman Les Hall signed the Presiding Officer's Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act, which is attached to these minutes as an exhibit.

**APPROVED:**

  
Celester A. Hall  
Chairman

**DATE:**

5-10-21

**MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY**

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING  
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT  
(General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

**1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:**

Date: April 8, 2021

Time: 1:16 pm – 1:45 pm

Location: Held by conference call only due to COVID 19 pandemic at  
470.869.2200/428 245 6027

Motion to close meeting made by: Laura Pasternak; Seconded by Gina Ramsey

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Celester Hall, Chair, Designee Secretary of Commerce	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Clemis Kaikis, designee of Comptroller	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Charles Martin	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Kehinde Oreagba	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Laura Pasternak	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sharon Pinder	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Gina Ramsey	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mara Sierocinski	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**2. Citation of statutory authority to close session (check all that apply): This meeting is being closed under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b), only:**

\_\_\_\_ (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

\_\_\_ (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;

\_\_\_ (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;

\_\_\_ (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;

\_\_\_ (5) To consider the investment of public funds;

\_\_\_ (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;

**X** (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;

\_\_\_ (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

\_\_\_ (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;

\_\_\_ (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;

\_\_\_ (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;

\_\_\_ (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;

**X** (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;

\_\_\_ (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, *if* public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

**3. Disclosure of the topics to be discussed, for each citation checked above:**

§3-305(b)(13) topics: Discussion and evaluation of the applications received from potential borrowers for financial assistance under programs of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, which applications include the disclosure of financial information of private individuals and confidential commercial and financial information.


§3-305(b)(7) topics: Legal advice from counsel to the Authority with respect to the applications.

4. For each topic listed in #2, disclosure of the reason for discussing it in closed session rather than in open session:

§3-305(b)(13): Financial information of private individuals is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-336) and confidential commercial and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).

§3-305(b)(7): Protection of the attorney-client privilege.

This statement is made by Celester Hall, Chair of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, Presiding Officer.

  
Celester Hall  
Chair